

Shrewsbury Housing Authority Annual Town Report

Shrewsbury Housing Authority is a politic, corporate and duly organized public housing agency. State and Federal lawmakers promulgate rules and regulations by which the housing authority must abide. The authority's funding is received directly from state and federal agencies.

A five-member Board of Commissioners oversees the authority by providing leadership and advice, advocating for current and future housing. As public officials, they hold meetings according to M.G.L. chapter 39 sections 2B of open meeting law. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month and open to the public. We post all meetings with the Town Clerk at the Town Hall.

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Federal and State programs. Together the Executive Director and Board of Commissioners form a powerful force in serving those in need within this community. The current Board of Commissioners and Executive Director are listed below:

Commissioners: **Bradford Green, Mary Jordalen, Richard Ricker, Anthony Cultrera, and Kathryn Schiavone**

Executive Director: **Dennis Osborn**
Assistant Executive Director: **Kelly Bergeron**

The Shrewsbury Housing Authority has been a vital link to the community since it held its first meeting on March 20, 1963. The housing authority's success can be attribute to the hard work of individuals with the vision to bring affordable housing to the town. Over the past forty years the authority has grown and evolved. Shrewsbury Housing Authority properties are:

State Funded Sites

Elderly

100 Units – Francis Gardens

36 Units – Elizabeth Gardens

Family

13 three-bedroom units on scattered locations

4 two-bedroom units – South Street

689-2

2 five-bedroom units on Lake Street – Spring of 2004

Federally Funded Sites

Elderly

100 Units – Shrewsbury Towers

173 Section 8 Vouchers

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), allows eligible applicants to be subsidized in an apartment that meets the requirements of the program. Presently all 173 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers are fully utilized. Section 8 participants are eligible for the Shrewsbury

Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS). FSS is a program designed to assist families achieve economic self-sufficiency by promoting employment and increased savings. The FSS Coordinator helps participants develop an Individual Training and Service Plan that identifies employment goals and services needed to achieve these goals. FSS offers referrals to community resources such as ESL/GED classes, education, job training, childcare, counseling and money management. As FSS participants achieve their goals and get increases in earned income, the housing authority deposits money into an escrow account for them. Participants receive the money in their escrow account when they complete their goals and graduate from the FSS program. The money is theirs to use as a down payment on a house, purchase a car or anything else they wish to spend it on.

The Shrewsbury Housing Authority is dedicated to helping residents grow in spirit, live with a sense of fulfillment, experience dignity and meet the challenges of their changing lives. In the spirit of this mission, the housing authority staff strives to meet the needs of all our residents. We have arranged for monthly on-site Blood Pressure and Podiatry Clinics, a dance program and other social events. This year the Shrewsbury Housing Authority helped residents start a Breakfast Club. An expanded continental breakfast buffet is held on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the community room at the Shrewsbury Tower. The Breakfast Club is run by volunteers and subsidized by the housing authority.

The Shrewsbury Housing Authority is in the process of developing two five-bedroom houses on Lake Street to help meet the needs of individuals living at the Glavin Center. The Shrewsbury Housing Authority was awarded one million dollars from the Department of Housing and Community Development for this project. The Department of Housing and Community Development is anticipating ground breaking in the spring of 2004.

The Shrewsbury Housing Authority makes a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to the Town of Shrewsbury annually. State and Federal agencies have set the formulas for payment. The payments for the past few years are listed below:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Federal Pilot</i>	<i>State Pilot</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>
2001 – 2003	\$22,402.00	\$5,205	\$27,607.00
2002 – 2003	\$25,741.88	\$5,233	\$30,974.88
2003 – 2004	\$22,248.56	\$5,160	\$27,408.56